

ILLUMINATABLE BUTTONS AND METHOD FOR INDICATING INFORMATION
USING ILLUMINATABLE BUTTONS

5 ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

10 A method and apparatus for indicating information to a user of a palmtop
computer. Illuminatable hard buttons are disclosed that are operable for
performing functions. The hard buttons are selectively illuminated to indicate
information to a user that relates to the function performed when the hard button
is pressed. The selective illumination of hard buttons to indicate information
that relates to the function that is performed when the hard button is pressed
conveys information to the user in a manner that is easily understood by the
user. In one embodiment, whether or not the button is illuminated and the color
of the illumination, convey information about the function that is to be performed
when the button is pressed.